

Secretary of War wrote Agent Meigs to embrace every occasion for sounding the chiefs on the subject of the removal of the whole tribe.⁴⁹

A considerable difference existed at this time between the Upper and Lower Cherokees; the former were chiefly farmers, while the latter--still hunters--were beginning to feel themselves hedged in by the narrowing boundaries of their hunting grounds. Differences of opinion growing out of these differences in occupations led to discontent. In May, 1808, a delegation of Upper Cherokees arrived in Washington requesting that a line be drawn between their lands and those of the Lower Cherokees, that their lands be allotted them in severalty, and that they be admitted as citizens of the United States, while their brethren in the South might hunt as long as the game lasted. In his talk with them Jefferson encouraged removal, but informed that citizenship could not be conferred upon them except by Congress.⁵⁰

The next year or two the idea of removal seems to have gained favor with both Upper and Lower Cherokees. An appropriation having been made for the purpose, a delegation was sent out to investigate the Arkansas country and returned with such favorable reports a large number were prepared to move at once. Jefferson went out of office, however, before anything could be accomplished, and Mr. Madison was not in favor of removal on a large scale. Although by 1817 between 2,000 and 3,000⁵¹ had emigrated, the emigration was not officially countenanced either